



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	ASJ-MVK-2002-437
EVALUATOR:	Ms. A. Susan Jarvis
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5146
FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
E-MAIL:	regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil
DATE:	December 7, 2005
EXPIRATION DATE:	December 29, 2005

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 10385, Jackson, Mississippi 39289-0385, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:
Mr. Jimmy Foster, Mayor
City of Pearl
Post Office Box 5948
Pearl, Mississippi 39288

Name of Agent:
Ms. Anna W. Schoonover
Solutions, Inc.
Post Office Box 820127
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39182

Location of Work: Sections 5,7,8, and 18 of T5N-R2E and sections 29 and 32 of T6N-R2E, latitude 31° 21' 53" longitude 98° 57' 14", within the Pearl River drainage basin, Rankin County, Mississippi.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to mechanically clear and fill 24.02 acres of wetlands and 0.82 acre of other waters of the United States associated with construction of new Mississippi Highway 477 (West Rankin Parkway) from Mississippi Highway 468 to Mississippi Highway 80, Rankin County, Mississippi. Existing Treetops Boulevard from Mississippi Highway 25 to Mississippi Highway 468 would become the most northern part of the new Mississippi Highway 477 when the new construction is completed.

The project would begin at the southern terminus of Treetops Boulevard at Mississippi Highway 468, in Flowood, Mississippi at Station No. (STA.) 292+52 and would extend generally north to south from STA. 292.52 to 111+22, ending at the intersection of Pearson Road and Mississippi Highway 80 just north of Pearl, Mississippi.

Roadbed dimensions for the new four-lane divided highway would average 94-foot top width and 174-foot bottom width. Each lane would be 12 feet wide. The average cleared right-of-way width would be 225 feet. The project would require approximately 35,000 cubic yards of general excavation and 890,000 cubic yards of embankment. The total project length would be 3.5 miles.

The purpose of the work is to construct a four-lane divided roadway of Mississippi Highway 477, to provide a north-south link between Mississippi Highways 25 and 80 in Rankin County. Vehicular mobility, accessibility, safety, and level of service would be improved in Rankin County by directly connecting Mississippi Highways 25 and 80.

The proposed project calls for construction of Mississippi Highway 477 from Flowood, Mississippi, south to Pearl, Mississippi. This proposed project is the result of Mississippi legislation approved in the regular session as House Bill 1449. The construction of Mississippi Highway 477 is an important element in relieving congestion in Rankin County.

Ten of the 17 delineated sites were identified as wetlands that would be impacted by the project. Sites 1 and 2 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 292+52 to 281+05, and would impact approximately 2.5 acres. Sites 4 through 6 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 274+54 through 247+74, and would impact approximately 11.13 acres of wetlands. Site 8 is located in the vicinity of STA. 209+26 to 206+05, and would impact approximately 0.44 acre of wetlands. Sites 11 and 12 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 186+50 to 184+85, and would impact approximately 0.74 acre of wetlands. Sites 16 and 17 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 144+80 to 111+22, and would impact 9.21 acres of wetlands.

The dominant species of vegetation at the ten delineated wetland sites include: *Acer rubrum*, *Baccharis halimifolia*, *Berchemia scandens*, *Carex sp.*, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, *Cyperus sp.*,

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Ilex decidua, Juncus effusus, Ligustrum sinense, Liquidambar styraciflua, Lonicera japonica, Quercus lyrata, Quercus nigra, Quercus phellos, Pinus taeda, Salix nigra, Smilax sp., Taxodium distichum, Ulmus americana, and Vitis labrusca.

A total of approximately 24.02 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted by the construction of the project, including the cleared right-of-way. The applicant has minimized impacts to wetlands in accordance with standard road construction specifications. Appropriate compensatory mitigation would be provided for unavoidably lost wetland functions and values.

A total of 0.82 acre of other waters of the United States would be impacted in seven sites by the construction of the project, including the cleared right-of-way. The locations and amounts of impacts for these sites are shown in the Wetland Delineation Site Summary Table. Realignment of the stream and filling of the old channel would occur at Sites 13 and 14, the main branch of Neely Creek, located in the vicinity of STA. 166+52 to 166+21 and STA. 159+25 to 158+74, respectively. Perennial and intermittent streams would be culverted with the appropriate culvert size to insure no interruption of the flow of the stream.

The proposed bridges over Prairie Branch Creek (STA. 278+65 to 275+42) and the right channel of Neely Creek (STA. 187+59 to 187+21), respectively, would be concrete slab span bridges.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing and highway construction activities requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Rankin County listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A letter dated 9 July 2002 from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History stated that a cultural resources report for the proposed project had been reviewed and four sites were

determined ineligible for listing in the NRHP. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

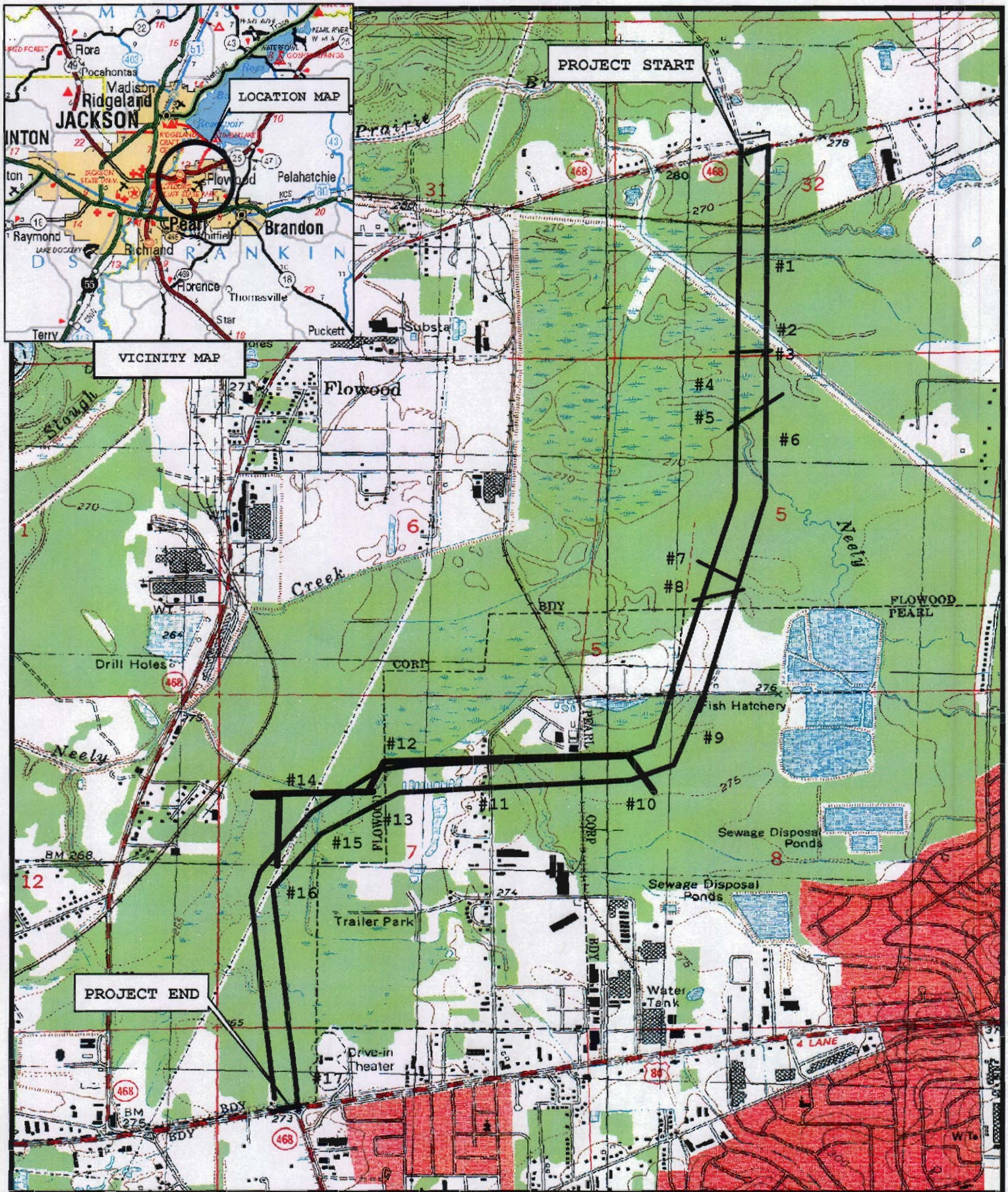
Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp>, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp>.

W. Harold Lee
Team Leader
Evaluation Section

WEST RANKIN PARKWAY (MS HWY 477)



JACKSON QUADS

1:24,000

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



CEMVK-OD-FE ASJ-MVK-2002-437

MR. JIMMY FOSTER, MAYOR
CITY OF PEARL

WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE
MS Hwy 477 (West Rankin Parkway)
Rankin County, Mississippi
Sites 1 - 17

Site	Station Number (STA.)		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters	
1	292+52	290+22	1.14	--	BLH
2	283+52	281+05	1.36	--	BLH
3	278+65	275+42	--	0.18 (B)	PBC,PS
4	274+54	268+26	3.58	--	BLH
5	267+25	260+51	3.59	--	BLH
6	256+85	247+74	3.96	--	BLH
7	243+25	241+25	--	0.01 (C)	RD
8	209+26	206+05	0.44	--	BLH
9	201+25	200+15	--	0.06 (C)	ES
10	187+59	187+21	--	0.03 (B)	NC, PS
11	186+50	184+85	0.15	--	BLH
12	174+24	172+30	0.59	--	BLH
13	166+52	166+21	--	0.18 (R,F)	NC, PS
14	159+25	158+74	--	0.18 (R,F)	NC, PS
15	155+72	154+75	--	0.18 (C)	NC, PS
16	144+80	137+24	2.31	--	BLH
17	125+90	111+22	6.90	--	BLH
Totals			24.02	0.82	

Legend: BLH – Bottomland Hardwood; PBC – Prairie Branch Creek;
Neely Creek; ES-Ephemeral Stream; IS – Intermittent Stream; PS – Perennial
Stream; RD- Roadside Ditch; (C) – Culvert; (F) – Fill; (B) – Bridge;
(R) - Realignment